

THE BAPTIST Record

JOURNAL OF THE MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST CONVENTION

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Disaster teams gearing for hurricanes

By Tony Martin
 Associate Editor

As if Southern Baptist disaster relief teams haven't faced enough challenges during a record-setting spate of deadly tornadoes in the South and Midwest over the past month, June 1 marked the official start of the 2011 North Atlantic hurricane season.

In Mississippi, an EF-2 tornado hit Central Hills Retreat shortly after midnight on Jan. 1, but by daylight Yalobusha and Calhoun Association chainsaw teams were cutting trees so assessments could be made.

The camp was back in operation by March 25, hosting its first event.

On April 15, tornadoes hit Mississippi again. The Briar Hill Church, Florence, feeding unit was set up at the old Morrison Heights Church site in Clinton with 10 volunteers. Several associational chainsaw teams were activated.

The state feeding unit went to DeKalb to provide meals in that area using 10 members of the Mississippi Baptist Disaster Relief Task Force members and several trained volunteers from Kemper Association. That same night, another tornado hit the Leakesville area, and associational teams in the area went to work feeding and covering homes with blue tarps. Three volunteers from the Task Force went to assist the associational volunteers.

On April 25, an EF-5 tornado hit Smithville, Wren, Monroe County, and other parts of north Mississippi. To date, this incident has involved 221 volunteers, with 7,381 hot meals served. Church and associational chainsaw teams completed 119 jobs plus doing general chainsaw work.



READY TO GO - Volunteer members of the Mississippi Baptist Disaster Relief Task Force prepare a meal for victims of the tornado that roared through Clinton and the surrounding area on April 15, causing significant damage to businesses and homes. The Task Force's Mass Feeding Unit, a fully self contained eighteen-wheeler capable of preparing thousands of meals per day, was working from the parking lot of the old Morrison Heights Church campus in Clinton. (Photo by William H. Perkins Jr.)

Chaplains made contacts with 212 families. The shower units provided showers for 394 people and washed 64 loads of clothes. Teams assisted with 32 roofing jobs, and Golden Triangle Association hosted a debris removal day using 87 volunteers.

The month of May presented Mississippi with the worst flooding along the Mississippi River in over 100 years. A task force of five operated from North Greenwood Church, Greenwood, for several days. Currently, deployment hinges on the flood waters to go down so that teams can begin mud-out operations.

The beginning of the 2011 hurricane season is a good time for families, churches, associations, and communities to stop and make preparations so that in the event of a disaster, they will be ready with resources and a plan, said Mickey Caison, the North American Mission Board's disaster relief team leader.

Individuals can find resources to help their families, churches and associations prepare for potential disasters at www.mbc.org and www.namb.net/Disaster-Relief-Preparedness. Resources to assist in disaster preparedness are also available from the American Red Cross (www.redcross.org) and at www.ready.gov.

According to Don Gann, consultant in the Men's Ministry Department of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, there is much that families and churches can do to prepare for hurricanes.

"If churches are in the coastal area, we have a setup through which we can pre-identify feeding sites, and they are pretty much the same from year to year," said Gann. "We send them a letter reminding

them, and we also have secondary sites to which we can transport food."

If a church needs to get ready, there are some basic steps to take. For instance, churches should encourage their people to have on hand three days' worth of supplies. Important papers should be put in a safe place. We encourage churches to keep track of their folks, check on them, and make sure that if evacuation orders come there is some plan in place to take care of the people."

Gann encourages churches to have some sort of plan. "Some churches on the coast have sister churches in the central and northern parts of the state that are evacuation locations," he said. Members in those churches would know where they could go in the event of an evacuation.

Several churches in the Jackson area have that relationship with coastal churches. Garaywa Camp & Conference Center in Clinton is the evacuation site for New Orleans Seminary, Gann said.

Gann added that the Red Cross website cited earlier has information on how to put together a preparedness kit.

"Some people always stay during a hurricane," Gann said, "and churches can help by having contact information and a list of who's staying and who's not. We just encourage them to be as ready as they can be."

"Since January 1, Mississippi Baptists have been doing disaster relief work virtually every day this year. It's been a tough year, and this hurricane season could be one for the record books."

Baptist Press contributed to this article.



WHITE HOUSE BRIEFING — President Barack Obama (at head of table) listens as FEMA administrator Craig Fugate (third from left) speaks about federal preparedness for the 2011 hurricane season during a briefing in the Situation Room of the White House on June 1. In attendance was Mickey Caison (seventh from left, in yellow Southern Baptist disaster relief shirt), president of the National Voluntary Organizations Active in Disasters and coordinator of Southern Baptist disaster relief operations at the North American Mission Board of the Southern Baptist Convention in Alpharetta, Ga. (BP photo courtesy of The White House)

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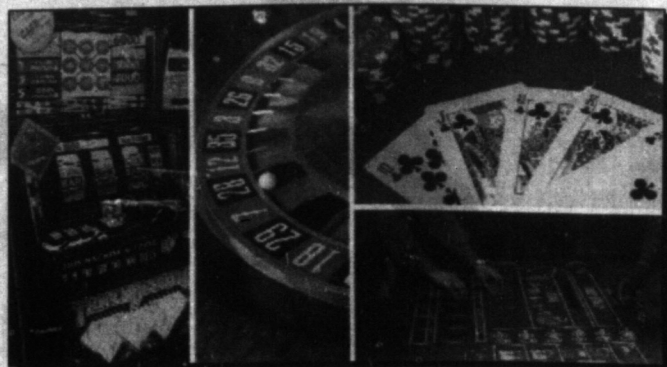
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'Back at the ATM'



A visitor from another planet would have a difficult time right now discerning whether Mississippians and the state's news media are more excited about the receding flood, or the reopening of the river casinos as the water goes down.

Over time, Mississippians have become too acclimated to legalized gambling in our state — and based on our behavior, that apparently includes many Mississippi Baptists. We just don't take it very seriously, like alcohol even as the casualties continue to pile up.

Big Gambling has always been about the money, and the political and social power that comes along with that money. Now someone who claims to be a "pit boss," one of those sinister-looking fellows in expensive suits who walk the floor of the casino patrolling the gambling tables, has written a book titled, *Casino Confidential* (Quirk Books 2008). He does not reveal his identity.

Nonetheless, his observations ring true to anyone with a passing knowledge of how legalized gambling works and how the deck is always stacked against the individual gambler. Some intriguing tidbits from the book, excerpted by Newsweek magazine and msnbc.com:

- *No matter what game you're talking about — blackjack, craps, Elvis Presley slot machines — the odds are always in the casino's favor.* This advantage is called the house edge and ensures that the casinos stay in business. They aren't cheating; they'll lose their license if they rip you off. But there are plenty of legal ways they can get you to stop paying attention to your bet.

- *If you're serious about gambling, don't drink while you do it.* Alcohol is a casino's best friend: It makes you do things no sane, rational person would ever think of doing,

like betting your entire paycheck on red 22 — again! In gambling jargon, a "fish" is an easy mark, and there's a reason casinos try to make you drink like one. Also, be wary if a casino starts offering you other freebies, especially after you've won a lot. The casino owners are going to do whatever they can to keep you there so they can win their money back. Want a complimentary dinner for two? A hotel room? Perhaps a free bottle of bubbly? No problem. They want you to think to yourself, "Wow, these guys are great! I don't want to leave just yet."

- *Casinos spend millions studying psychology and what motivates us to take risks.* That's why you see so much red,

especially on slot machines — red supposedly attracts players and gets them to think of victory. Casinos have also experimented with different scents — a kind of gamblers' aroma-therapy. Should you forget to wear a watch, good luck finding out what time it is. The only clocks in casinos are on the employees' time cards. Casinos want you to lose track of time; that's why windows are so rare. It could be 5 in the morning or 5 in the afternoon, but inside a casino it's always forget-your-troubles time.

- *The inventor of chips was a genius.* Plopping down a stack of \$100 chips isn't nearly as painful as putting down a wad of \$100 bills. When you win a small jackpot at the tables, dealers automatically pay you in chips, hoping you'll burn right through them without a second thought. Have you ever noticed there are a dozen places in a casino to buy chips but only one place where you can cash them in? Cash goes straight into your pocket, and the casino owners know they might never see it again.

- *[You shouldn't step inside the casino unless you have 100 times your smallest bet.* If you only have \$100, you should play the \$1 tables. Twenty minutes later, they're all out of cash and back at the ATM.

Gambling is bad for Mississippi, and bad for Mississippians. It's bad for America. Always has been, always will be. Are we too far down the slippery slope to see that?

GUEST OPINION:



Religious expression now freer in Europe?

By Alan Sears, president
Alliance Defense Fund

A number of appellate court judges, including five U.S. Supreme Court justices, have indicated their enthusiasm for citing foreign law in constitutional cases, and the high court has already invoked European precedents in several instances.

Ironically, with this ruling the Council of Europe now allows Europeans more legal leeway for acknowledging their national history and religious heritage — even if it is Christian — than many U.S. courts grant Americans.

Make no mistake: "acknowledgment" is the crucial word. Whether it's a crucifix on a classroom wall in primary Catholic Italy or the Ten Commandments on the wall of a U.S. courthouse, a Bible in a student's hands at recess or a prayer before graduation, a Christmas greeting from a department store employee, or a Christian poster in an office cubicle, the pressure is on worldwide to drive any

semblance of the Judeo-Christian God from every corner of the public square.

Indeed, crosses and prayers should be no more intrusive or unsettling in a free culture than bumper stickers and honking horns are in morning traffic. Each marks the free expression of one person's convictions, and like all free expressions, religious ones are sometimes loud and sometimes quiet, sometimes a little overbearing and sometimes a gentle encouragement, sometimes irritating (even to Christians), and sometimes delightful (even to the unbelieving), but always — always — free.

To eliminate that free expression of faith because some will always find faith "offensive" is more than a travesty against our nation's history or a rejection of the politically expressed will of the majority of our fellow Americans. It is the first giant step toward the elimina-

tion of free speech of any kind. If today you can remove my cross because it offends you, tomorrow I may be able to remove your Go Yankees pennant because that bugs me. How long before steakhouse have to take down their signs because vegans are offended, or before Republican can strip Democrat stickers off car bumpers while Democrats ban Republican commercials from the airwaves?

Discomfort breeds indignity. Indignity breeds intolerance. Intolerance breeds persecution. Where does it stop?

In Europe last month, it stopped. In America, though, the fight goes on and on as — in the name of defending freedom — a growing axis of anti-Christian legal groups work with deliberate diligence to eliminate freedom forever.

Perspective is such an interesting thing, and the thing most dangerously missing from our discussions of religious freedom in America.

Sears is a former federal prosecutor who held various posts in the departments of Justice and Interior during the Reagan Administration. The Alliance Defense Fund, headquartered in Scottsdale, Az., is a legal organization working to protect and preserve religious liberty, the sanctity of life, marriage, and the family. Sears' commentary appears here courtesy of Baptist Press

Ethnic growth plan to be presented in Phoenix

PHOENIX (BP) — Messengers to the 2011 annual meeting of the Southern Baptist Convention (SBC) in Phoenix will vote on a set of recommendations aimed at making the convention's leadership positions more reflective of the growing ethnic diversity in its churches.

Adoption and implementation of the recommendations, which are the result of an extensive ethnic participation study conducted by the SBC Executive Committee, could be pivotal in reaching an increasingly diverse American population with the Gospel, one expert said.

"If we want to reach America for Christ, it needs to be with the inclusion of everybody in the SBC. The ethnic people are growing constantly at a very, very high percentage. If we do not include them, we may lose a generation," said Frank Moreno, director of the language division of the Florida Baptist Convention.

In 2000, about 35 million Hispanics lived in the United States but in 2010, the number had grown to 50 million, Moreno told Baptist Press. In Florida alone, the Hispanic population has grown by 60% in the past decade.

The 2009 SBC Annual Church Profile report indicated that 6.5% of congregations in the SBC were African American while an additional 12.5% reflected other ethnic identities. Moreno said that means only 81% of the convention's churches are Anglo.

"What I'm saying is we are growing. We are a very diverse convention," Moreno said, "and if we are not aware of the changes that are taking place, I think we are going to lose a good segment of the population."

Successful marketers in American culture, Moreno said, are aware of the current power of the Hispanic market in particular and have vigorously targeted that population segment. "I don't think that as Southern Baptists we have tapped into the language people enough. The secular world is way, way ahead

of us in that respect. "When we take a look at the boards and committees, it is evident that there are very, very few language people on those committees. It's about time that we change," Moreno said.

Messengers in the past have passed resolutions celebrating and encouraging ethnic diversity in the convention, but Moreno said the recommendations to be voted on in June are "the first serious step" toward making a change.



Anderson

Moreno was on the committee in 2008 that drafted a resolution on ethnic diversity, but he said little has happened in response. "Some of the things that this report includes were included in the resolution, but we haven't seen practically anything happen in that respect."

The difference this time, he said, is that the recommendations are the result of a comprehensive study conducted by the convention's Executive Committee and presented in a different format than in the past.

"I don't recall any study that is as serious as this trying to include the language people and also making sure that the language people are aware of the fact that they need to respond also to those recommendations," Moreno said. "It's not a one-way street. It's going to be a two-way street."

Some may argue that ethnic Southern Baptists will not attend associational, state or national meetings or that they don't speak English well enough to participate on boards and committees, Moreno said. "Nowadays we have a lot of people who are well-educated and are able to communicate even if they have some difficulties. They can understand everything that is being said, and they can contribute a lot," he said.

Robert Anderson, a former president of the National African American Fellowship within the SBC, said the recommendations can help black Southern Baptists realize anew

that they need to do their part. "We too are the Southern Baptist Convention. It's not like we're a part of it. We are the Southern Baptist Convention."

We have responsibilities in this area too, to help our convention be a reflection of what we're trying to do," Anderson, pastor of Colonial Church in Randallstown, Md., said.

As the only African American currently on the Executive Committee, Anderson has sought to keep the issue at the forefront of discussion. He served on the subcommittee that conducted the ethnic participation study and drafted the recommendations.

"There was a full buy-in from the Executive Committee. I think there will be full buy-in and support from messengers. Come on, we've got a black president," Anderson said, referring to President Obama.

"We've moved on now, and it's time for the SBC to step up its game. They may not think of it in that regard, but that's my take on it. I do believe it will have good support."

To accomplish the intended goal, Anderson said the recommendations must be embraced with a major degree of intentionality because an increased number of ethnics in leadership positions "will not happen by osmosis."

"You've got to start somewhere. I hate to call it a starting place, but in some respects this is a starting place," Anderson said. "If you don't start here, where are you going to start? If this is not the right thing to do, then what is the right thing to do?"

"It's easy to sit on the sidelines and throw rocks at cars going by, but it's quite another thing if you're really in the car and you're trying to go someplace," Anderson added.

"Honestly, I don't believe there will be many cynics. I think there's a wide support base."

SBC president Bryant

Wright told Baptist Press he is thankful that the recommendations have been made, and he witnessed a positive reception in the Executive Committee when they were presented earlier this year. He said he has not encountered people talking about the ethnic participation study report outside of the Executive Committee, though.

Wright, pastor of Johnson Ferry Church in Marietta, Ga., said the convention needs more ethnic diversity in its leadership and the first step toward making progress is bringing it to the attention of the people, which he believes the recommendations do.

Three of the recommendations are addressed specifically to the SBC president, asking him to "give special attention to appointing individuals who represent the diversity within the convention, and particularly ethnic diversity" among his appointees to various committees.

The president also is requested to report the total number of appointees that represent the ethnic diversity when names for committees are released to Baptist Press and to encourage the selection of annual meeting program personalities that represent the ethnic diversity within the convention.

"We have worked real hard to have ethnic diversity in our Committee on Committees appointments as well as on the resolutions and credentials committees and the tellers," Wright told Baptist Press. "...We haven't counted it. We've just worked to see that there's a very good representation."

Looking back

10 years ago

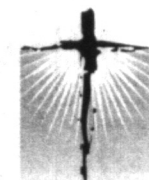
David Thomas Wills, 39, director of the Sunday School Department at the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, dies May 31 at Baptist Medical Center in Jackson due to complications related to leukemia.

20 years ago

The first congressional roll-call vote on abortion in 1991 proves a victory for advocates. The U.S. House of Representatives votes May 22 to require the country's armed services medical facilities overseas to provide abortion on demand when the client pays for the procedure.

50 years ago

Herschel Hobbs, newly elected president of the Southern Baptist Convention, says that he considers "our Christianity's struggle with communism the most serious threat since Jesus Christ walked this earth."



MISSISSIPPI
BAPTISTS

THE SECOND FRONT PAGE

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YOU CAN RESPOND
RIGHT NOW!

Simply share the following prayer with God in your own words:

1. Lord, I admit that I need you. (I have sinned.)
2. I want forgiveness for my sins and freedom from eternal death. (I repent.)
3. I believe Jesus died and rose from the grave to forgive my sins and to restore my relationship with you. (I believe in Jesus.)
4. By faith, I invite Jesus Christ into my life. From this time on, I want to live in a loving relationship with Him. (I receive Christ as my Savior and Lord.)

"But as many as received him, to them he gave the right to become children of God, even to those who believe in his name." (John 1:12)

If you make a decision for Jesus Christ today, contact a local Baptist church for spiritual guidance.

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By Charles Marx, 1932 - 2004
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QXFDNKRXX.
RDUX EAXHEO-VPDF:
VPFEO-NXGXH

Clue: T = P

Have fun with cryptography and exercise your Bible knowledge. A King James Version Bible verse has been encoded by letter substitution. The same letter is substituted throughout the puzzle. Solve by trial and error. Answer to last week's puzzle: Luke Five: Thirty-one

BE STILL AND KNOW

The Scripture says, "Be still, and know that I am God" (Ps. 46:10). It had been a beautiful spring day. It was almost summer but not quite. The day was warm, the afternoon was cool, and the golden sunset was in process. I was not scheduled to be anywhere for a meeting, to speak, or to visit with anyone and so I fixed myself a turkey sandwich, got a glass of Barq's Root Beer, and went out and sat in the backyard.

The atmosphere was still except for an occasional interruption by a gentle breeze brushing through the trees. I thought to myself, what an enjoyable moment this would be. I had hardly taken the first bite from my sandwich when the air conditioning unit kicked on and the noise seemed to override everything else that was happening in my backyard world. I was determined to enjoy the moment and so I continued to munch, watch, and be still.

Only a few more minutes passed when I saw a couple of the friendly squirrels that hang around our house jumping from limb to limb in a Sycamore tree as though they were doing acrobatics just for me. Actually, I don't think they knew that I was there. I stayed still, and I watched them as they came down the tree, jumped on a fence, and ran across the top of the fence into another tree playing and chasing one another. I thought how neat and what a beautiful thing to see God's creation, and then out of the corner of my eye I saw something flying over the backyard. It was a beautiful pair of hawks. They were flying into the sunset but they came from the east and seemed to be overhead for a lot longer than they



Directions

Jim Futral, executive director-treasurer
Mississippi Baptist Convention Board

actually were. They were flying alongside of each other and they seemed to be flying just for me. I thought to myself now this is good!

With the squirrels playing around me and hawks flying overhead, the air conditioner stopped. All that I could hear was the early night sounds of the locusts and soon some chirping chimney sweeps arrived. Out in the distance I heard the bark of a dog. It was not one of those angry, mean barks. It was one of those happy, friendly barks that a dog gives when he wants to say hello to someone. He barked a few times and then it was quiet. Then the verse came to my heart like a word from God, "Be still, and know that I am God."

As I sat quietly and watched God's creation all around me, I thought about how infrequently I am still. About the only times that I could really think of when I was still was when I had to sit in a meeting somewhere paying close attention and not able to get up and leave or in the stillness of night when a long day is over and I fall into a deep sleep. However, to sit down and be still so rarely seems to come to me and to most of the people I see around me. It seems as though we must be going, doing, writing, talking, calling, emailing, text messaging, driving, exercising, but rarely being still. The longer I sat and the longer I was still the more I was blessed by the world around me.

A Thrush chased a cricket within just a few feet of where I was and as though it was doing a contorted dance finally caught its supper and then flew off into the distance. I looked off to the side and saw that the Magnolia tree I had planted several years ago had beautiful blossoms on its branches. Then in the stillness, God began to remind me of how He takes care of His people and how wonderful He has been to me. The birds of the air have nests. The flowers do not worry themselves into a frenzy in order to become beautiful like the Magnolia blossoms. God cares for us. Suddenly it seemed as though everything was still. The sun had

gone down over the horizon. The breeze had stopped so completely that all of the trees looked like a painting. A Mockingbird with its variety of sounds and its repertoire of songs flew up to the ridge of the house and began his evening symphony.

My sandwich was gone and I was enjoying a moment that I had not known in a long time. With joy, a sense of peace, confidence, and hope, I was not only connected with creation, but I was in touch with the Creator. Suddenly the air conditioning unit kicked back on, but honestly it did not seem to matter for there was tranquility not just in the world around me but a peace within me that neither A/C compressors, phones ringing, news blaring, or the trials and troubles of life could disrupt. What a joy it is to experience the reality of the Lord's presence as He says, "Be still, and know that I am God."

The author can be contacted at jfutral@mbcb.org.

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

1. **Corinth Church, Heidelberg:** June 13 - 17, 8:30 - 11:30 a.m., pre-K - 6th grade. Call (601) 787-3828 for more information.
2. **Crossroads Church, Petal:** One day VBS, June 18, 9 a.m. - 2 p.m., including lunch; grades 1 - 6; for more information, call (601) 270-5043.
3. **Bellevue Church, Thaxton:** June 13 - 17, 6:30 - 8:30 a.m.
4. **Southside Church, Yazoo City:** shown are the participants.
5. **First Church, Lexington:** May 23 - 27; average attendance, 53, high attendance, 60; \$386.85 collected for the Baptist Children's Village; Mata Tutterow, leader. Shown are the participants.



4. Southside Church, Yazoo City



5. First Church, Lexington

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REVIVALS AND HOMECOMINGS

1. **Jackson Camp Church, Tishomingo:** Homecoming, June 12, 11 a.m., followed by lunch; singing, 1:30 p.m.; Cross City Quartet, music; Dwight South, pastor.
2. **Ted Church, Louin:** Centennial Anniversary, July 17; services, 11 a.m., followed by lunch and singing; Keith Bogan, speaker.
3. **Knox Church, Tylertown:** 100th anniversary, June 12; lunch following morning service with an afternoon of reflection and special music; Dorman Laird and Michael Knippers, speakers; Jim Ennis, pastor.
4. **Bowlin Church, Sallis community:** Homecoming, June 12, 11 a.m., with food and fellowship; Ralph Hurst, speaker.
5. **Elmo Church, Roxie:** Homecoming and revival June 12 - 15; Sun., 10:30 a.m., followed by dinner on the ground; Mon. - Wed., 7 p.m.; Ronnie Robinson, speaker; Pat and Roy Doughty and the Gospel Travelers, music; James Hunsucker, pastor.

What I tell you in the darkness, speak in the light; and what you hear whispered in your ear, proclaim upon the

HOUSE TOPS.

Matthew 10:27 NAS

June 9, 2011

HouseTops is a Baptist Record supplement produced by the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board's Communication Services.

GROWING CHURCHES

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July 23, 2011
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August 6, 2011
FBC, McComb
McComb, Miss.

August 13, 2011
Country Woods
Byram, Miss.

August 27, 2011
FBC, Kosciusko
Kosciusko, Miss.

September 17, 2011
FBC, Picayune
Picayune, Miss.

Age Group Conferences
for Preschool - Adult:

"Telling the Story
of Jesus Through
Sunday School"

"The Transformational
Sunday School Class"

General Officers
Conferences:

"Principles to Tell the
Story of Jesus"

"How to Grow a
Transformational
Sunday School"

For more information contact
Kiely Young at kyoung@mbcb.org
or Lee Ann Boykin at lboykin@mbcb.org
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BSU is on more than 30 campuses in Mississippi, and you are invited to come and join the fun! Grow spiritually and serve while you are in college ... and find great friends! Every BSU has a welcome event at the beginning of school in the fall. Find out more about BSU where you are going!

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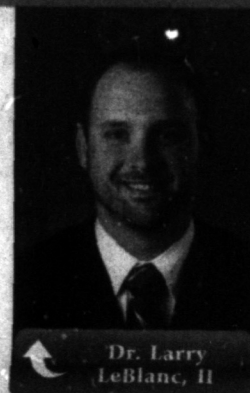
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Baptist Student Union is a ministry of your Cooperative Program.



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PASTORS' WORKSHOP



Dr. Larry LeBlanc, II



Rev. Israel Cox

August 29, 2011

9 a.m. to noon

Baptist Building Skyroom

With Larry LeBlanc, II, Pastor, FBC Summit
& Israel Cox, Pastor, Crosspoint Church, Gulfport

For more information contact Alan Woodward
601.292.3308, or awoodward@mbcb.org

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Undiscovered

Call to me and I will answer you and tell you great
and unsearchable things you do not know.
Jeremiah 33:3

Mid-Delta FamilyFEST July 20-24, 2011

(Cleveland, Greenwood, Indianola area)

FamilyFEST is a hands-on missions project designed to help families connect with one another while doing missions/ministry together. Any missions volunteers-six years and older- are encouraged to participate.



The cost is \$25 per individual or a maximum of \$50 per family (immediate family - parents and their children). The cost includes: registration fee, t-shirt, event insurance, some supplies, some meals. Additional cost will include: some project supplies, meals, and housing. We are working on affordable housing options.

To receive a registration packet for this event, contact Tammy Anderson in the Mississippi WMU office (800-748-1651, ext. 323, or 601-292-3323 or tanderson@mbcb.org).

FamilyFEST is co-sponsored by the Mid-Delta Baptist Association, Men's Ministry (MBCB) and Mississippi WMU (MBCB).

School PrayerWalk & Teacher Appreciation Sunday, July 24, 2011

Sponsored by
Woman's Missionary
Union
mbcb.org/mission_strategy/wmu/
& Student Ministry mbcb.org/youth_ministry/

Professional Certification
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Ministry Office Skillsshops

August 16-18, 2011

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Sept. 30
through
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A Woman's Guide
to Joyful Living
Rhonda H. Kelley

MINISTERS' WIVES
CONFERENCE

Monday, October 31, 2011
FBC Chapel, Jackson
1:15 - 4:45 p.m.

Special Ministries Retreat 2011



Crafts Bible Study Singing
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The Special Ministries Retreat is for
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their pastors, parents, teachers, and friends.

September 9-10, 2011
Garaywa Camp and Conference Center
Clinton, Miss.

For more information, contact Angie Boydston at aboydstun@mbcb.org
or Lee Ann Boykin at laboykin@mbcb.org or call 1.800.748.1651, ext. 292,
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iPRAY

1 THESSALONIANS 5:17
MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST YOUTH NIGHTS 2011



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July 16 - BancorpSouth Arena, Tupelo
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2011 choir & orchestra Concert TOUR

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- | | |
|-----------------------|--|
| June 8
6:00 p.m. | Ellisville, Miss. (601) 477-3256
First Baptist Church • 302 East Holly Street |
| June 9
6:30 p.m. | Starkville, Miss. (662) 323-5633
First Baptist Church • 106 East Longkin Street |
| June 10
6:30 p.m. | Purvis, Miss. (601) 794-8331
First Baptist Church • 27 Shady Springs Drive |
| June 11
3:00 p.m. | Hattiesburg, Miss. (601) 318-6051
FestivalSouth
William Carey University • 496 Tuxton Avenue |
| June 12
9:00 a.m. | Gulfport, Miss. (228) 832-1966
Bel-Aire Baptist Church • 15000 Redwood Road |
| June 12
10:30 a.m. | Gulfport, Miss. (228) 863-5096
Grace Memorial Baptist Church • 2301 23rd Avenue |
| June 13
6:30 p.m. | Jackson, Miss. (601) 949-1900
First Baptist Church • 431 North State Street |

NO ADMISSION CHARGE

A Ministry of the Cooperative Program
Helping Bring Mississippi and the World to Jesus

Pray this day for...

"He told them: The harvest is abundant, but the workers are few. Therefore, pray to the Lord of the harvest to send out workers into His harvest."
Luke 10:2

Pray for a team of seven from **North Winona BC** as they travel to Europe to minister through medical missions and minister to children and youth. June 12-19.

Pray for **David Williams**, ministering to the people of Rochester, New York, through the Finger Lakes Association as an AMD.

Pray for a team of four from **Missions Mobilization** as they travel to Thailand to minister through AIDS and hospice ministry. May 19-24.

Pray for **Mike Flannery**, ministering to the people of Buffalo, New York, through the Frontier Association as an AMD.

Pray for **Buddy & Sandy Day** as they minister to the people of Buffalo, New York, through the Frontier Baptist Association. June-July.

Pray for **Charlie Minney**, ministering to the people of five counties in southwest West Virginia through the Coalfields Association as an AMD.

Pray for a team of four from **Mantee Baptist Church** as they travel to Ukraine to minister through Bible school, adult Bible study and construction. June 15-29.

Pray for **Doug Virgin**, ministering to the people of five counties in western West Virginia through the Greater Huntington Association as an AMD.

Pray for a team of five from **Arlington Heights BC**, Pascagoula, as they travel to minister to the people of Uganda. June 16-29.

Pray for **All Nations Church** in Henrietta, New York, a thriving Korean congregation working with Mississippi Baptists to construct a new church facility.

Pray for a team of 19 from **FBC, Tupelo**, traveling to Maine to minister through construction and community ministry. June 10-17.

Pray for a team of 10 from **FBC, Vancleave**, traveling to Costa Rica to minister through construction. June 11-18.

Pray for **Dan Duffy** as he ministers to the people of Elyria, Ohio, through the Northcoast Association as an AMD.

Pray for a team of 46 from **Dixie BC**, Hattiesburg, as they travel to minister to the people of Peru. June 18-26.

State Literacy Missions Conference

July 14-16, 2011
 Crossgates Baptist Church, Brandon

With Special Guest: Kendale Moore
 For more information see
www.mbc.org/mission_strategy/wmu/literacy
 or call 601-292-3317



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 - Bible Storytelling
- Seminars on:
- Updates
 - Cultures
 - Religions

8-8-08
Miss Sarah
 Parents: C & C
 Restricted

8-9-03
Mr. Jadon Yeager
 Parents: Tommy & Jennifer
 Restricted

8-10-07
Mr. Evan Epps
 Parents: Aaron & Tiffany
 South America

8-16-07
Mr. Hutchinson Adair
 Parents: James & Mary
 Margaret
 Sub-Saharan African Peoples

8-19-91
Miss Allisha Austin
 Parents: Arnold & Susie
 South America

8-24-01
Miss Kaylee Hodgins
 Parents: Ray & Cindy
 South America

8-26-08
Mr. Jeremiah S.
 Parents: Spencer & Melanie
 Last Frontier

8-27-00
Mr. Benton Hewitt, III
 Parents: Earl & Ramona
 Sub-Saharan African Peoples

8-27-00
Mr. Benton Hewitt, III
 Parents: Earl & Ramona
 Sub-Saharan African Peoples

8-27-00
Mr. Benton Hewitt, III
 Parents: Earl & Ramona
 Sub-Saharan African Peoples

8-27-00
Mr. Benton Hewitt, III
 Parents: Earl & Ramona
 Sub-Saharan African Peoples

8-27-00
Mr. Benton Hewitt, III
 Parents: Earl & Ramona
 Sub-Saharan African Peoples



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FOR SECURITY, cards will be forwarded.
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 WMU MK Birthdays, PO Box 530, Jackson MS 39205.
 PLEASE NOTE: Church members may send a package of
 cards together; cards do not have to be sent individually to
 the WMU.

Senior Adult Rally

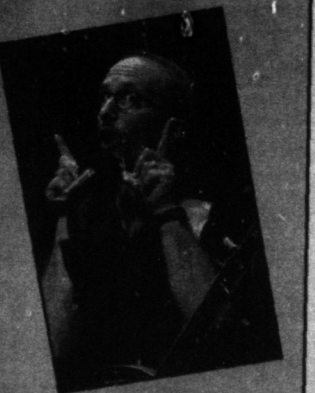
2011 Thursday, August 25
 8:30-11:45 a.m.

First Baptist Church, Brandon

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Al Fike!

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HOUSE TOPS

Christian Action COMMISSION

PRACTICAL PRINCIPLES for Christian Living

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Mopping Up

By Jimmy Porter
 Miss. Baptist Christian Action Comm.



Porter

The battle was long and even though the crew had won, the ship deck remained littered with blood and debris. Before normalcy could set in, someone had to take a mop of rope and yarn and clean the deck. In the 1600s a sailor called a swab would do the "mopping up."

For the Christian families of faith, victory was declared at the cross and empty tomb but the war goes on. The Apostle Paul described it like this, "For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places." (Ephesians 6:12). He then encourages each believer to put on the whole armor of God and to take our stand against the evil of our day.

Paul admonished Christians to be ready to be proactive. Yet, the vast majority of believers are reactionary. We wait until there is a crisis to respond or until the vote is cast to complain, moan and groan. Having been a pastor for several years, I learned it was difficult to get a church to become

proactive and practice preventive maintenance. My Christian friends, we can no longer afford to sit back and react. We must take a stand. The attack has been relentless since the days of Adam and Eve and it has not slackened. Therefore, our churches must step up to the plate and get involved in creating an environment that is Christian friendly and tolerant to Christianity. Am I the only one who feels political correctness applies to all religious groups (both fanatical and terror-oriented) except Christian? Society is tolerant of all groups but not those who hold to Christian teachings and values.

What can we do? First and foremost, we must pray. Once we have put on the armor of God the apostle says that we must "pray always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit," (Eph. 6:18). E.M. Bounds

said, "The prime need of the church is not men of money nor men of brains, but men of prayer." "Prayer is a mighty instrument, not for getting man's will done in heaven, but for getting God's will done in earth," stated Robert Law. Our churches must take seriously the mandate to pray for our governing entities as fervently as we pray for the lost and the sick of our world.

Every church needs a group of concerned members who are dedicated to the task of keeping important issues and elections before the congregations. If the phrases "late term abortions" and "embryonic stem cell research" are mentioned in your church, how many would have knowledge of their meaning? Our people need to be educated as to what is happening around them. Do they really understand separation of church and state? Do they know that students and teachers in public schools have certain rights and freedoms? The issues have to be studied and communicated to our congregations.

To study an issue is not enough. Appropriate action must be taken. Each church would do well to have a

group of concerned citizens to provide the church with strategies, techniques and resources with which to address all levels of government and social concerns. The steps are quite simple—pray, educate, and then act upon that which you have studied and saturated in prayer.

The Christian Action Commission is available to come to any church and meet with any group of individuals to assist in getting you started. There are resources we can share with you that will provide insights and helps with your strategies. Many churches are beginning to select committees for the new year, and what better time to get a group together and assign them the responsibility of keeping the members informed? Just give us a call at 601-292-3329 if you desire more information or need to schedule an organizational meeting.

Yes, we have won the war but we can never quit mopping up. Evil residue and debris are all around us, and we need some committed Christians to become "swabs." How about signing up?

Porter can be contacted at 601-292-3332 or at jporter@christianaction.com.

CLASSIFIED ADS

CULLENDALE FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH, CAMDEN, ARKANSAS IS SEEKING A F/T YOUTH/STUDENT LIFE MINISTER. Salary based on experience and education. Current Youth program averages 45-55 students weekly. Please send resume and if possible audio or video to bwilliams@cullendalefbc.org or 1850 Cash Road, Camden, AR 71701

MS GOSPEL CONVENTION June 9-11, 2011 @ Forrest Co. Multipurpose Center in Hattiesburg, Thurs. 6:30pm: **DOVE BROTHERS**, Chronicle, Homecoming, FRI 6pm: **MSQC Awards**, Talley Trio, Red Roots, Others. Sat. 1pm-10pm: **Mark Trammell QT**, Mike Bowling Family, Ricky Atkinson, Red Roots, Riders, Others (AM Talent Contest) www.msqa.com or 601-466-4343 Ticket, RV, boothspace information.

STATE SPRINGS BAPTIST CHURCH, LOCATED IN ARLINGTON, TX, is a multi-generational conservative Southern Baptist Church looking for a Senior Pastor who can operate in a team approach with pastoral staff. Our total Sunday morning attendance is 600-650. Please forward resume to Terry Jeffries, Pastor of Administration at terry@tatesprings.com or directly to the pulpit committee at pastorsearch@tatesprings.com

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MS POSITIONS

GOOD HOPE BAPTIST CHURCH, PURVIS, MS. IN LAMAR COUNTY IS ACCEPTING RESUMES FOR A FULL TIME MINISTER OF MUSIC. Resumes may be submitted at kristi@good-hopepurvis.com or mailed to P.O. Box 1117, Purvis, MS 39475.

WOODLAND BAPTIST CHURCH, 3033 RIDGE ROAD, COLUMBUS MS 39705 ACCEPTING RESUMES FOR PASTOR. Sunday School-140, Worship-175 Experience & education a plus. Resumes accepted through June 30, 2011, Call 662-327-6689 for info.

FLOWOOD BAPTIST CHURCH IS SEEKING A BI-VOCATIONAL OR PART-TIME YOUTH MINISTER to work with both the children's division and the Youth division as a coordinator not necessarily a teacher. Please send resumes to Flowood Baptist Church, 1649 Old Fannin Road, Flowood, MS 39232. For further information you may call 601-992-6464.

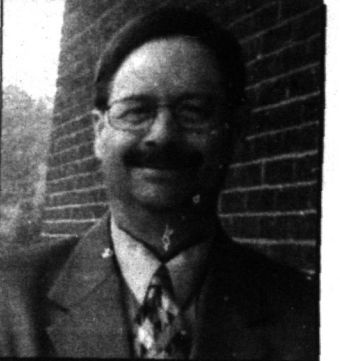
ENTERPRISE BAPTIST CHURCH IN ENTERPRISE, MS IS ACCEPTING RESUMES FOR A FULL-TIME MINISTER OF STUDENTS. Please send resumes to: enterprisebaptist@aol.net OR Enterprise Baptist Church C/O Minister of Students Search P.O. Box 186 Enterprise, MS 39330

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH, MAGEE, MS, IS SEEKING APPLICANTS FOR THE FULL TIME POSITION OF CHILDHOOD EDUCATION MINISTER (birth to 6th grade). Resumes may be mailed to FBC Magee, P.O. Box 266, Magee, MS 39111 or emailed to khall@fbcmagee.com

STAFF CHANGES

1. **Steele Church, Forest,** has called Tony Massey as music minister.

2. **Park Haven Church, Laurel,** has called Christopher Fraizer as minister of student. He is shown with his wife, Chrissy, and sons, Daniel and Andrew.



1. Massey

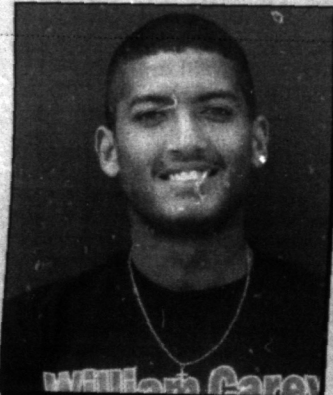


2. The Fraizers

COLLEGE NEWS



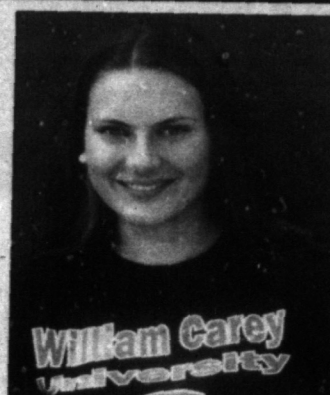
Ard



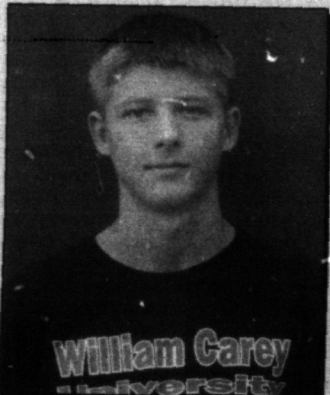
Claassen

Five William Carey University athletes were recently named to the 2011 National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics (NAIA) All-American Teams. Anna Ard, a senior biology major from Louisville, was named to the 2011 NAIA Softball All-American First Team. She was also named Southern States Athletic Conference (SSAC) Pitcher of the Year. Maja Vuzem, a junior business administration major from Kornwestheim, Germany, was named to the 2011 NAIA Women's Tennis All-American Second Team. Jody Claassen, a freshman psychology major from Cape Town, South Africa, was named to the 2011 NAIA Men's Tennis All-American First Team. Toni Gauta, a sophomore psychology major from Zadar, Croatia, was named an honorable mention to the 2011 NAIA Men's Tennis All-American First Team.

Visit us online at www.mbc.org



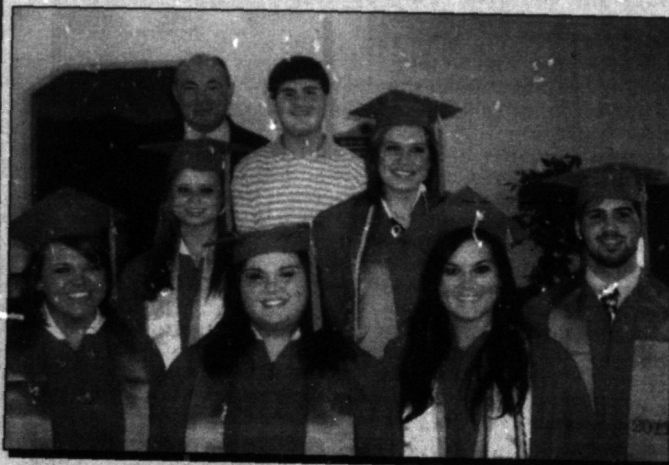
Vuzem



Gauta

JUST FOR THE RECORD

1. **Hardy Street Church, Hattiesburg**, is sponsoring a mother's day out program Tuesday and Thursdays, June 14 - July 21, 9 a.m. - 3 p.m. \$50 registration fee, with \$115 monthly tuition (\$75 for June). Ages, infants - 6th grade, summer session; infants - 5 year old, fall and spring sessions. Snacks provided; Bible stories, praise, creative play, crafts, and outdoor play. For information, call (601) 544-1794.
2. **Midway Church, Pontotoc Association**, recently honored their graduating seniors with Bibles and a meal. Shown, first row, are Kelsie Horman, Kenzie Moore, Hannah Royce, Stuart Caples; second row, Morgan Hamblin, Brandon Tutor, and Callie Leonard. Tommy Tackett, pastor.



2. Midway Church, Pontotoc Association

BIBLE STUDIES FOR LIFE

Where is Your Treasure?

Matthew 6:19-34

By Beth S. Bowman

Many modern movies contain stories that can be used to illustrate spiritual truths. Such is the case of the first installment of the movies, *Pirates of the Caribbean: Curse of the Black Pearl*. This movie hinges on a curse that was bestowed on the pirates many years ago. The curse, until broken, prevented the pirates from ever enjoying anything in life. They could acquire as much money, possessions and women in life and never be satisfied. Until the curse was broken by blood, they were doomed to live a miserable existence. 1 John 2:2 states, "He is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not only for ours but also for the sins of the whole world." (NIV)

This story certainly carries spiritual truth. Gaining possessions and financial resources

ultimately do not satisfy our deepest needs. And until a blood sacrifice was given in the form of Jesus Christ, we do not have hope of joy and happiness. This Sunday's lesson asks the question, "Where Is Your Treasure?" Like the pirates, we need a blood sacrifice to break the curse of our materialism and money-driven values.

I am going to focus on only two phrases from the selected passage of today's lesson.

DO NOT STORE UP FOR YOURSELVES.

(Matthew 6:19 NIV) These verses come from the Sermon on the Mount. These are exact words of Jesus from His lips to our ears. We do not see in scripture many times the words, "Do not..." but when we do, we should pay particular attention. His com-



Bowman

mand in this verse is clear. Quit putting your security and life in things that do not last. The possessions that we acquire will eventually pass us. The maintenance, upkeep and safety of items become an energy-driven, focus laden task. I am overwhelmed just keeping up with the power cords for the few pieces of electronics that I own! And yet I am tempted to purchase another. Many years ago, Dr. Kevin Cooper preached a sermon about the fall of man. He rightly linked our obsession with clothing to our deepest need to cover up our sins and our inadequate feelings. We don't find our ultimate worth in the Lord, so we find it in the things that we possess. These things begin to define us. And we will never have enough. We will never "store up" enough. Here's a challenge for you: Simplify your life. Give it away. Find a need, meet it. But don't go

and refill it. Let your focus be on who you are and not what you own. Don't wait till you facing end of life issues, give it away now. Giving it away is fun and will free you up to serve without being owned by things.

STORE UP FOR YOURSELVES RICHES IN HEAVEN.

(Matthew 6:20 NIV) First of all, nothing can destroy any deposit in heaven. Lives given to Jesus Christ are permanent and can't be stolen, destroy or decay over time. Investing in a generation who do not know Christ is the ultimate way to acquire "riches" in heaven. The grade school class that needs a Sunday School teacher? The nursing home visitation team is looking for a team member? The young woman who needs a mentor? All ways to invest in a future that you will one day participate in. Jump in. Use your gifts, talents, energy, time, money and focus. Spend your energy on things that are eternal today. Trust me, sweeping the garage can wait.

I wish you could meet my Aunt Julie Halfacre of Winona. Although I am not related to her by blood, she treats me as if I have always been a part of her family. With open arms and the warmth of the afternoon sun, Aunt Julie welcomes many in her home and her heart. She has never treated a possession as more worth than the person in front of her. Generosity fills her soul and spills onto all those in her circle of influence. I would dare to guess how many broken hearts have been healed at her kitchen table, how many cakes have left her oven to cheer the sick or how many people will enjoy eternal life because of her investment. She values people over possessions...every time. Stop by to visit her sometime...and be sure to look a little hungry...her strawberry cake is the best!

Bowman is Minister of Connection at First Church, Brandon, and a speaker for women's events.

EXPLORE THE BIBLE

Navigating Life's Storms

Jeremiah 3:12b-17; 4:1-4

By Harold Simmons

Trackers were people who were very skilled in their ability to track wounded animals or desperados. I heard one man in a western movie say of another: "He could track a lizard across a rock." Trackers were very useful people. Jeremiah was something of a tracker. He could trace the pattern of people's lives to determine where they were going morally. He tracked the Hebrew people to the place where they got off the track of following God's instructions to them. In this lesson Jeremiah is trying to get this nation back on track and going the designated route to living what God laid out for them.

Getting Back on Track.
(Jeremiah 3:12b-13)
Jeremiah said the beginning of getting back on track is

admitting that they have sinned against God. This admission begins with the recognition or perception that wrong has occurred. We become acquainted with the fact that we have rebelled against God. The Old Testament word for sin means we have trussed the mark. The word pictures drawing a bow and sending an arrow toward a target. God sets the target with His righteousness and laws. We are the shooter who aims the arrow. With the target, we have something to give us a measurement of whether we are on target.

Today, The Holy Spirit makes us aware of our wrongs. It is as though He plays a video in our minds to help us see the wrong we have done or are doing.

God through Jeremiah has told His people that they have



Simmons

missed the mark (sinned) and need to acknowledge that they have sinned in order that they can change and get back on target.

Blessings Are Available

(Jeremiah 3:14-17)

If God's people get on target with what the Lord wants of them, there are blessings in store for them. There is a great blessing that comes with a forgiven heart. If one repents, forgiveness comes in a powerful way. First, a great burden is lifted from the heart. That great burden is in the form of guilt. The people of Jeremiah's day and we, were and are guilty of rebellion against the mighty God. The blessing is to have that guilt removed from us as far as the east is from the west. Another blessing is realizing and receiving the unmerited love that God bestows upon us.

God has promised the blessing of having leaders (shep-

herds) who have an experiential knowledge of God and a great skill in leading His people. These shepherds will demonstrate the love of God and will be close enough to know His people individually. "In those days" points to the future. In times to come, the people will have "the good shepherd, Jesus." Also, there will be no need for an "Ark of the Covenant" because God will reside in the heart of individuals in the person of the Holy Spirit. All people, all nations, will be drawn and will respond to God's Throne, His place of dwelling.

Missing God's Judgment

(Jeremiah 4:1-4)

Once again there is a conditional sentence that begins with "if." God's judgment is coming but it can be missed. When the Hebrews were delivered from Egypt, if they put the blood of the lamb on their doorpost, the "Death Angel" would Passover their house. In other words God's judgment would pass over them. Here there is the condi-

tion of "if you repent." The Northern Kingdom was told that they must rid themselves of the idols they worshipped. Their lives did not influence the Canaanites to accept the Lord as their God. That would have brought blessings to the Canaanites, for God had said that the descendants of Abraham would bless all nations. Instead, the Israelites had been influenced by the Canaanites.

There is an additional part of that command. They must not waver. That means they must not get other gods other than the ones they had been worshipping. That action would not satisfy a jealous God who wants no other gods before Him.

For the Southern Kingdom, there was the command to break up the unused land of their hearts. Unplowed land is wasted land. There is a part of their hearts that is wasted because they have not sought the Lord.

Simmons is currently interim pastor at Cascilla Church, Cascilla

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Mission:Dignity Sunday is June 26, 2011 • Order materials today!

Guidelines for submitting news and photographs

The Baptist Record is pleased to publish news and photographs of special events that take place in cooperating churches of the Mississippi Baptist Convention.

News submitted for publication in The Baptist Record must be either (a) typewritten, (b) neatly printed on 8 1/2 by 11-inch paper, or (c) neatly printed on standardized forms provided by the newspaper. All articles must be received in writing; no articles will be accepted over the telephone.

News may be submitted electronically to the address below, and must be contained in the message segment of an e-mail form. Due to increasing virus threats, no text attachments will be accepted. Photograph attachments are permissible.

Please make articles concise. Include the who, what, when, where details of the story, along with a contact person's address and telephone number.

Photographs may be color or black and white. Instant photos and digital printouts are not reproducible. Digital photos may be used if

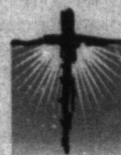
submitted as a JPEG file via either (a) e-mail, (b) three-and-a-half inch floppy disk, or (c) CD. Photos must be clear, sharp, and well-lighted. Cell phone photographs and other low resolution items are generally not publishable. Photographs can not be returned. Please do not attach photos with tape or staples.

All news items are subject to editing, and all photographs are subject to cropping. Photographs must depict people. No landscape, building, or object-only photographs will be printed. News items and/or photographs can be published one time only. News items and/or photographs depicting benefits and activities for secular or outside organizations will not be published. Deadline for submitting news is one week prior to requested publication date.

Articles that are not date-sensitive will be published on a space-available basis. Submit news and photographs to The Baptist Record, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. FAX: (601) 292-3330. E-mail: baptistrecord@mbc.org.

THE BAPTIST Record

JUST FOR THE RECORD



MISSISSIPPI BAPTISTS



2. Branch Church, Morton



3. Calvary Church, Bogue Chitto



4. Bovina Church, Vicksburg



5. Steele Church, Forest

1. Grace Church, Vicksburg, is having a 1980's youth reunion June 12; 11 a.m. service, followed by a fellowship potluck.

2. Branch Church, Morton, recognized the women in the church who had been members of the church for more than 50 years. Shown are Lodena Stewart, Opal Irby, Shelba Breedlove, Alene Tagert, Sue Torrence, and Wilma Davis.

3. Calvary Church, Bogue Chitto, recognized their high school and college graduates recently. Shown are high school graduates James Wilson, Bradi Davis, and Casey Fry.

4. Bovina Church, Vicksburg, held a Mother's Day celebration and "hat day." Shown are the participants.

5. Steele Church, Forest, recently recognized all the graduates from preschool, kindergarten, high school, college, and New Orleans Seminary. Shown are the graduates.

6. Randolph Church, Pontotoc County, recently licensed Steven Newell to the gospel ministry. Shown are pastor Gerald Finley and Newell.

7. Corinth Church, Tallahatchie County, held a baby dedication May 22. Shown are the children and their parents. Archie Goodwin, pastor.

8. Dorsey Church, Mooreville, held a baby dedication Apr. 17. Shown, from left, are Mary Loden, Keith Loden, Kim Cappleman holding Megan Grace Cappleman, Chris Cappleman holding Beth Cappleman, and Gene Loden.

9. Sylvarena Church, Wesson, recognized its high school graduates. Shown are Kristen Johns, Nick Nations, Earl Henson, Tiffany Wages, Kyle Cross, Mac Lowery, Ky Lowery, and Hunter Hood.



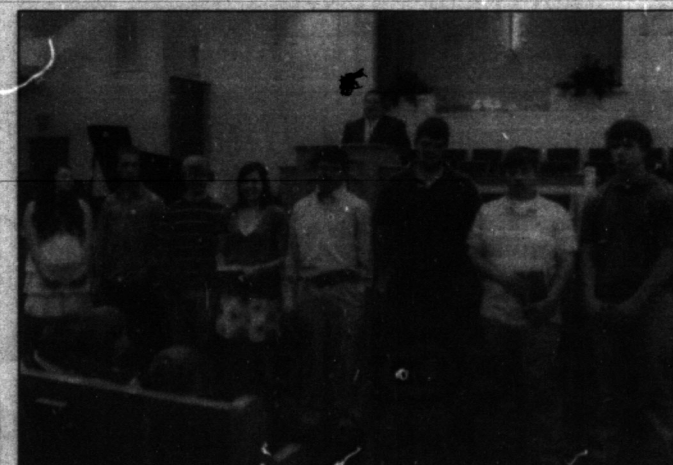
6. Finley and Newell



7. Corinth Church, Tallahatchie County



8. Dorsey Church, Mooreville



9. Sylvarena Church, Wesson

